

Serial 61
Firearms Amendment Bill 2026
Mrs Finocchiaro

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Firearms Act 1997*

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

FIREARMS AMENDMENT ACT 2026

Act No. [] of 2026

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. [] of 2026

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An Act to amend the *Firearms Act 1997*

[Assented to [] 2026]
[Introduced [] 2026]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

10

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Firearms Amendment Act 2026*.

2 Commencement

15

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act commences on a day fixed by the Administrator by *Gazette* notice.
- (2) If a provision of this Act does not commence before 30 June 2026, it commences on that day.

3 Act amended

This Act amends the *Firearms Act 1997*.

4 Section 4 amended (Exemptions)

20

- (1) Section 4(4), after "59,"
insert
61B,
- (2) Section 4(4), after "a firearm"
, or the possession of a digital blueprint (in the case of section 61B),

(3) After section 4(4)

insert

5

(4AA) Section 61B does not apply to, or in relation to, a person who is in possession of a digital blueprint for the manufacture of a firearm, or part of a firearm:

(a) for a purpose connected with a law enforcement function or for the preparation or conduct of a criminal proceeding; or

10

(b) if the person is authorised by a licence or permit to manufacture a firearm, or part of a firearm, based on the digital blueprint.

5 Section 4A amended (Application of Criminal Code)

Section 4A

omit

or 49Y(2).

15

insert

, 49Y(2), 61B or 125.

6 Section 13 amended (General conditions of licence)

After section 13(2)

insert

20

(2A) The Commissioner may:

(a) revoke or vary a condition of a licence imposed under subsection (2)(b); or

(b) during the period of a licence, specify further conditions under subsection (2)(b) to which the licence is subject.

25

7 Section 14 amended (Period of licence)

(1) Section 14(1)(c)

omit, insert

(c) a firearms armourer licence remains in force for 5 years; and

(ca) a firearms dealer licence remains in force for 5 years; and

(d) a firearms corporate licence remains in force for 10 years or the shorter period specified in the licence; and

(2) Section 14(1)(ga)

omit

5

5

insert

10

(3) After section 14(3)

insert

10

(4) Despite subsection (1), a licence continues in force beyond its expiry if, before the expiry:

(a) the licensee has lodged an application under section 9 for a new licence of the same type; and

(b) the licence has not been granted or refused under section 10.

15

(5) A licence continued in force by subsection (4) expires on the grant or refusal referred to in subsection (4)(b), unless earlier revoked.

8 Section 34 amended (General provisions relating to permits)

After section 34(1)

insert

20

(1A) The Commissioner may:

(a) revoke or vary a condition of a permit imposed under subsection (1)(b); or

(b) during the period of a permit, specify further conditions under subsection (1)(b) to which the permit is subject.

25

9 Section 55 amended (Firearms Advisory Council)

(1) Section 55(2)(a) and (b)

omit, insert

30

(a) up to 4 executive members of the Northern Territory Firearms Council Incorporated nominated by the Northern Territory Firearms Council Incorporated; and

(b) up to 2 police officers nominated by the Commissioner:

(i) by name; or

(ii) by reference to an office, position or rank; and

(2) Section 55(2)(c)

5

omit

other

insert

up to 4 other

(3) Section 55(2)(c)

10

omit

Incorporated.

insert

Incorporated and the Commissioner; and

(4) After section 55(2)(c)

15

insert

(d) a Chairperson appointed by the Minister.

(5) Section 55(3)

omit, insert

20

(3) A nomination under subsection (2) must be made to the Minister in writing.

(3A) The persons appointed under subsection (2)(c) and the Chairperson appointed under subsection (2)(d) cannot be:

(a) a police officer or a public sector employee employed by the Agency administering the *Police Administration Act 1978*; or

25

(b) a member or employee of the Northern Territory Firearms Council Incorporated.

(6) Section 55(5), after "(2)(c)"

insert

or the Chairperson appointed under subsection (2)(d)

10 Section 61B inserted

5 After section 61A

insert

61B Possession of digital blueprints for manufacture of firearms

(1) A person commits an offence if:

- 10 (a) the person intentionally produces, sells, distributes or possesses a thing; and
- (b) the thing is a digital blueprint for the manufacture of a firearm, or part of a firearm, on a 3D printer or on an electronic milling machine.

Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 14 years.

15 (2) Strict liability applies to subsection (1)(b).

(3) In subsection (1)(b), a part of a firearm includes a silencer or another article related to a firearm prescribed by regulation.

(4) In this section:

20 ***digital blueprint*** means any type of digital (or electronic) reproduction of a technical drawing of the design of an object.

possession, of a digital blueprint, includes the following:

- (a) possession of a computer or data storage device holding or containing the blueprint or of a document in which the blueprint is recorded;
- 25 (b) control of the blueprint held in a computer or data storage device that is in the possession of another person (whether the computer or data storage device is in or outside the Territory).

11 Section 68 amended (Altering firearms)

(1) Section 68, before "A"

insert

(1)

5 (2) Section 68(b)

omit

firearm.

insert

firearm; or

10 (3) After section 68(b)

insert

(c) destroys it; or

(d) renders it, or a part of it, inoperable.

(4) Section 68, penalty provision

15 *omit, insert*

Maximum penalty: Imprisonment for 14 years.

(5) Section 68, at the end

insert

20 (2) In subsection (1)(d), a part of a firearm includes a silencer or another item related to a firearm prescribed by regulation.

12 Section 68A amended (Sale and purchase of ammunition)

(1) Section 68A(2)(a)

omit, insert

(a) the person purchasing the ammunition is:

25 (i) the holder of a licence, or a corresponding licence, for the category of firearm that takes the ammunition; or

(ii) authorised to buy the ammunition by a permit or a corresponding permit; and

(2) Section 68A(2)(b)

omit

, permit or authorisation.

insert

5 or permit; and

(3) After section 68A(2)(b)

insert

(c) the person who sells the ammunition complies with any other requirement prescribed by regulation.

10 **13 Section 69 amended (Possession of ammunition)**

After section 69(1)(a)

insert

(aa) is the holder of a corresponding licence or permit for a category of firearm that takes the ammunition; or

15 **14 Section 90 amended (Matters to be notified)**

(1) Section 90(2)

omit (all references)

or theft

insert

20 , theft, destruction or disposal

(2) Section 90(4)

omit

or stolen

insert

25 , stolen, destroyed, defaced or damaged

(3) Section 90(4)

omit

or theft

insert

5 , theft, destruction, defacing or damage

15 Section 92 amended (Temporary recognition of interstate licences for shooting competition)

(1) Section 92, heading

omit

10 **for shooting competition**

(2) Section 92

omit

or category H firearms

insert

15 , category H firearms or ammunition for those categories of firearms

(3) Section 92(a)

omit

an approved shooting competition

insert

20 a shooting competition at a premises approved for shooting activities

16 Section 103 amended (Duplicate certificates and licences)

Section 103(1), after "destroyed,"

insert

25 defaced,

17 Part 13, Division 5 inserted

After section 121

insert

Division 5 Firearms Amendment Act 2026

5 **122 Definition**

In this Division:

amending Act means the *Firearms Amendment Act 2026*.

commencement means the commencement of the amending Act.

123 Periods of licences

10 (1) Section 14(1)(d), as inserted by the amending Act, applies in relation to a firearms corporate licence issued as the result of an application lodged after the commencement.

15 (2) Section 14(1)(ga), as amended by the amending Act, applies in relation to a firearms employee licence issued as the result of an application lodged after the commencement.

124 Firearms Advisory Council

20 (1) A member of the Firearms Advisory Council holding office under section 55(2)(a) immediately before the commencement ceases to hold office on the commencement but is eligible for reappointment subject to the operation of section 55 as amended by the amending Act.

25 (2) A member of the Firearms Advisory Council holding office under section 55(2)(b) immediately before the commencement ceases to hold office on the commencement but is eligible for reappointment subject to the operation of section 55 as amended by the amending Act.

30 (3) A member of the Firearms Advisory Council holding office under section 55(2)(c) immediately before the commencement may continue to hold office until the member's term of office expires but is eligible for reappointment subject to the operation of section 55 as amended by the amending Act.

125 Matters to be notified

- (1) A person commits an offence if:
- (a) the person is the holder of a licence, permit or certificate of registration immediately before the commencement; and
 - 5 (b) a firearm to which the licence, permit or certificate relates was, before the commencement:
 - (i) rendered inoperable, in whole or in part; or
 - (ii) destroyed, defaced, damaged or disposed of; and
 - 10 (c) the person fails to notify the Commissioner in writing, within 30 days after the commencement, of a circumstance mentioned in paragraph (b) and is reckless in relation to that failure.

Maximum penalty: 50 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months.

- 15 (2) Strict liability applies to subsection (1)(a) and (b).

18 Schedule 7 amended (Reviewable decisions)

Schedule 7

insert (in numerical order)

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 2A | A decision of the Commissioner under section 13(2A) to revoke or vary a condition of a licence, or to specify a further condition of a licence | The holder of the licence |
| 4A | A decision of the Commissioner under section 34(1A) to revoke or vary a condition of a permit, or to specify a further condition of a permit | The holder of the permit |

19 Repeal of Act

20 This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.